

Application No: 10/665,687 Docket No.: Q137-US6

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-42. (canceled)

43. (previously presented) An electric storage battery, comprising:

- a case sealed by a first end cap and a second end cap;
- an electrically conductive terminal pin extending through the first end cap and electrically insulated from the case;
- an electrode assembly disposed within the case, the electrode assembly includes an electrode in electrical communication with the pin and an electrode electrically insulated from the pin;
- a flexible conductive tab electrically coupled to the electrode that is electrically insulated from the pin,
- the tab extending from a first location adjacent to the case to a second location,
- the second location being further from the first location than a centerpoint of the second end cap is from the first location,
- the tab being immobilized relative to the second end cap at the second location but not being immobilized relative to the second end cap over the entire distance from the first location to the second location.

44. (previously presented) The battery of claim 43, wherein the case excludes a fill hole.

45. (previously presented) The battery of claim 43, wherein a weld connects a flat portion of the tab to an inner face of the second end cap.

46.-66. (canceled)

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67. (previously presented) The battery of claim 43, wherein the second end cap has a radius and a distance from the first location to the second location is greater than the radius.

68. (previously presented) The battery of claim 43, wherein the electrodes are electrode strips wound around the pin so as to form a spiral role on the pin.

69. (previously presented) The battery of claim 68, wherein the spiral role includes at least one separator separating the electrodes.

70. (previously presented) The battery of claim 68, wherein the electrode assembly includes a mandrel mounted on the pin such that the electrodes are wound around the pin and the mandrel.

71. (previously presented) The battery of claim 70, wherein the mandrel includes a longitudinal slot; and wherein

the electrode in electrical communication with the pin extends through the mandrel slot.

72. (previously presented) The battery of claim 70, wherein the mandrel has a channel through which electrolyte can be injected.

73. (previously presented) The battery of claim 70, wherein a portion of the electrode in electrical communication with the pin is positioned between the mandrel and the pin.

74. (previously presented) The battery of claim 70, wherein the electrode in electrical communication with the pin includes active material positioned on a substrate, the substrate being positioned between the mandrel and the pin without the active material being positioned between the mandrel and the pin.

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75. (previously presented) The battery of claim 70, wherein a weld attaches the mandrel to the pin.
76. (previously presented) The battery of claim 70, wherein the mandrel includes titanium or an alloy of titanium.
77. (previously presented) The battery of claim 70, wherein the mandrel is crimped to the pin.
78. (previously presented) The battery of claim 70, wherein the mandrel includes a tube.
79. (previously presented) The battery of claim 70, wherein the pin is positioned in an interior of the tube.
80. (previously presented) The battery of claim 70, wherein the mandrel has a c-shaped cross-section.
81. (previously presented) The battery of claim 70, wherein the mandrel is fitted around the pin such that the electrodes are wound around the pin and the mandrel.
82. (previously presented) The battery of claim 70, wherein the mandrel is a reinforcing mandrel.
83. (previously presented) The battery of claim 43, wherein at least one weld directly connects the electrode that is in electrical communication with the pin to the pin.
84. (previously presented) The battery of claim 43, wherein the pin includes of an alloy of PtIr.
85. (previously presented) The battery of claim 43, wherein the first end cap includes an electrical insulator,

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the pin extends through the electrical insulator, and  
the pin is hermetically sealed to the electrical insulator.

86. (previously presented) The battery of claim 43, wherein the case is electrically conducting.

87. (previously presented) The battery of claim 43, wherein the tab extends past the centerpoint of the second end cap such that a line that extends through the centerpoint in a direction that is perpendicular to the second end cap also extends through the tab.

88. (new) The battery of claim 68, wherein the tab provides electrical communication between the second end cap and the electrode that is electrically insulated from the pin.

89. (new) The battery of claim 88, wherein the tab is the only tab providing electrical communication between the second end cap and the electrode that is electrically insulated from the pin.

90. (new) The battery of claim 68, wherein the tab is connected to the second end cap such that the second end cap can be removed from the case and with the electrode assembly still positioned in the case the second end cap be positioned perpendicular to an end of the case with the tab extending through the end and the case being located between the tab and the second end cap.